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Fax Cover

From: David L. Rush

2705 Bruce Lane

Sarasota, Florida 34237

Telephone: 941, 366-4781

Fax: 941, 366-1670

To: Attorney General John Ashcroft

United States Department of Justice

Washington, D.C. 20530-0001

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**2705 Bruce Lane
Sarasota, FL 34237-3001**

January 12, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Ashcroft:

I am a partner in a telecommunications company. I use Windows in my business, and believe Microsoft has consistently created superior products. I would be unable to conduct my business in today's world without Microsoft's innovations. As a businessman, I am obviously interested in having the most advanced technology available to me, at the lowest cost. The Microsoft antitrust lawsuit clearly gets in the way of both of these goals.

I have been totally against this lawsuit from the get-go. If a corporation lies, cheats, or steals, the government should become involved in that corporation's affairs, and perhaps a lawsuit should ensue. On the other hand, a corporation, such as Microsoft, should not be subjected to antitrust litigation merely because it develops superior products through the hard work and innovation of its research and development team.

I strongly believe the terms of the settlement agreement go too far. Specifically, I am not in favor of the provision creating a technical oversight committee. I am opposed to watchdog groups in a free enterprise system. However, I do support Microsoft making this concession in the interest of getting the case settled. I am also concerned about some of the other concessions Microsoft is making. For example, Microsoft has agreed to make it easier for computer manufacturers to remove features of Windows from computers so that competing software programs may be installed. However, I do support Microsoft's agreement to these terms if it will prevent setting a precedent for disgruntled Microsoft competitors to challenge Microsoft at will whenever they believe Microsoft has created a better product. Clearly, Microsoft has gone far beyond what should be expected of it in the interest of bringing this matter to a close.

I strongly support approval of the settlement to the end to this needless litigation. Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

